**Retail Outlets and LPG Agencies in Gujarat**

3527. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for allotement of new petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG distributorships in Gujarat pending with the Union Government; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to expedite clearance of those applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) and (b). A large number of applications are received regularly by Government. No separate records of such applications are maintained. Efforts are constantly on to provide new petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG distributorships wherever required subject to product availability under various Marketing Plans.

**Cultivation of Mentha**

3528. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any scheme to encourage the cultivation of Mentha; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Government have no proposal at present. However, programmes for the development of improved varieties with more oil content, improved agronomic practices, control of insects, pests and diseases etc. have been taken up by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Council of Scientific Industrial Research to encourage the cultivation of Mentha.

[*English*]

**Exchange of Enclaves Between India and Bangaladeh**

3529. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of enclaves which India has in Bangladesh and their area;

(b) similar details of such enclaves which Bangladesh has in India;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of both the Government to exchange these enclaves; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). There are 130 Indian enclaves measuring approximately 32.75 sq. miles in Bangladesh and 95 Bangladesh enclaves measuring approximately 19.20 sq. miles in India.

(c) and (d). According to the Land Boundary Agreement of May, 1974 signed between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh the Indian and Bangladesh enclaves are to be exchanged.

**External Affairs Minister's Visit to Moscow**

3530. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI HARIBHAI M. PATEL:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the talks held by him on various bilateral matters, including trade and defence, with the Soviet and Russian leaders during his recent visit to Moscow;

(b) whether the issue of Kashmir also figured in the talks;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Russian President proposed the idea of direct diplomatic ties with India during the talks; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) I was assured by President Gorbachev and other senior Soviet leaders that the USSR stands by all its commitments of India. This was confirmed by President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

It has been agreed that a high level multi-disciplinary group from India could visit Moscow in December to meet their counterparts both from the USSR and the Russian Federation with a view to discussing and resolving difficulties that have arisen in different sectors of cooperation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does no arise.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir. Some tentative suggestions have been made in this direction. No dicisions have been finalised in this regard.

[*Translation*]

**LPG Agencies at Sasaram and Bhabhua in Bihar**

3531. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas agencies allotted in Sasaram and Bhabhua in Bihar are in accordance with the set norm of setting up of one agency for every 20,000 people;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken so far for setting up of one gas agency for every 20,000 people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c) As per present policy, LPG distributorships are opened in a phased manner, depending upon the economic viability and product availability, in towns having a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census). Accordingly, an LPG distributorship has been opened at Sasaram.

[*English*]

**Multi Disciplinary Indian Team to Moscow**

3532. SHRI RABI RAY
DR. C. SILVERA
SHRI PIUS TIRKEY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Multi Disciplinary Indian Team is scheduled to visit Moscow in the near future;